

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A driving apparatus in combination with an assisting mechanism, for driving an assisting mechanism serving as an assistant for opening operation or closing operation of a door, ~~the driving apparatus comprising:~~

a plurality of driving sources;

a plurality of driving gears, each that is individually provided at one of the driving sources, respectively;

a driven gear that is engaged with each of the driving gears;

an idle gear that is driven by the driven gear; and

an output gear that driven by the idle gear, wherein

each of the plurality of the driving gears has a first rotational shaft,

the driven gear has a second rotational shaft which is orthogonal to the first rotational shaft,

the idle gear has a third rotational shaft which is parallel to the second rotational shaft and is placed a predetermined distance from the second rotational shaft,

the output gear has a fourth rotational shaft which is parallel to the third rotational shaft and is placed a predetermined distance from the third rotational shaft, and

the assisting mechanism is activated through rotation of the output gear by driving of the driving sources.

2. (currently amended): The driving apparatus in combination with the assisting mechanism, according to claim 1, wherein

the driving gears are worms, and

the driven gear is a worm wheel.

3. (previously presented): A door closer comprising:

a striker that is provided on one of a body and a door of a vehicle in such a manner that the striker is engageable with a latch provided on other of the body and the door of the vehicle;

an assisting mechanism that pulls in the striker in a state of engagement with the latch to close the door; and

a driving apparatus that drives the assisting mechanism, wherein

the driving apparatus includes

a plurality of driving sources;

a plurality of driving gears that is individually provided at the driving sources;

a driven gear that is engaged with each of the driving gears;

an idle gear that is driven by the driven gear; and

an output gear that driven by the idle gear, wherein

each of the plurality of the driving gears has a first rotational shaft,

the driven gear has a second rotational shaft which is orthogonal to the first rotational shaft,

the idle gear has a third rotational shaft which is parallel to the second rotational shaft and is placed a predetermined distance from the second rotational shaft,

the output gear has a fourth rotational shaft which is parallel to the third rotational shaft and is placed a predetermined distance from the third rotational shaft, and

the assisting mechanism is activated through rotation of the output gear by driving of the driving sources.

4. (previously presented): The door closer according to claim 3, wherein  
the driving gears are worms, and  
the driven gear is a worm wheel.

5. (original): The door closer according to claim 3, further comprising a switching unit that is provided between the driving sources and a power source that supplies a current to the driving sources to switch a current flow to the driving sources on and off, wherein

when the striker drawn in through the rotation of the driven gear has reached a predetermined drawing-in termination position, the switching unit cuts off the current flow to the driving sources to stop driving of the driving sources.

6. (original): The door closer according to claim 5, further comprising a detector that detects whether the latch and the striker is in engagement with each other, wherein

when a state of the latch and the striker is switched from disengagement to engagement, based on a result of detection by the detector, the switching unit starts the current flow to the driving sources.

7. (currently): A door closer comprising:

a striker that is provided on one of a body and a door of a vehicle in such a manner that the striker is engageable with a latch provided on other of the body and the door of the vehicle;

an assisting mechanism that pulls in the striker in a state of engagement with the latch to close the door; and

a driving apparatus that drives the assisting mechanism, wherein

the driving apparatus includes

a plurality of driving sources connected in parallel, wherein each driving source has a driving gear provided therewith; and

a driven gear that is engaged with ~~each~~all of the driving gears, and

wherein the assisting mechanism is activated through rotation of the driven gear by driving of the driving sources.